



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Galveston District

The Sand Castle

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UPCOMING EVENTS

March 24
Coastal Coordination
Council Meeting

March 29
SWD District Engineers
visit Galveston District

March 30
Charlotte Stockwell's
retirement luncheon

Galveston County
Hurricane meeting

April 5
2005 Texas Water Conference
Moody Gardens

April 8
Border Patrol Section
Headquarters Celebration
at Edinburg

April 20
PRB

Recreation Committee News

Upcoming events include: bake sales, a Spring raffle, car washes, and box lunches. So, please be on the look out for these events.

We will be announcing the date and plans for Engineer Day soon.....

As always thank you for your support of your recreation committee. WE are only as good as the amount of support you give us!



BG Dorko pays district a visit on NSPS

On Feb. 22, the Galveston District was visited by recently promoted SWD Commander Brigadier General Jeffrey Dorko who spoke on the newly proposed personnel system, National Security Personnel System, or NSPS.

At the townhall, BG Dorko, accompanied by Chief of Human Resources Jerry Sosebee, began his presentation by telling his audience where we have been, where we are, and where we need to be on personnel matters.

"This system (NSPS) is designed to provide managers

greater flexibility in managing civilians, competing for high quality talent, offering compensation competitive with the private sector, and rewarding outstanding performance," said Dorko.

It transforms the personnel system for civilian defense workers so that the right person can be put in the right job to meet the challenges of today, he said.

Points that BG Dorko emphasized included the following:

1.) NSPS will change how civilians are hired, assigned,

rewarded, advanced, and removed, as well as how appeals are handled — all within the context of merit system principles, accommodation of veterans' preference, and respect for bargaining rights.

2.) Under this system, managers will have the flexibility to place civilian workers where they are most needed without needless delay.

New employees can be hired more quickly, the promotion process will be streamlined, and pay for performance bonuses will be available.

NSPS continues on page 4...

District issues permit for Sabine Pass LNG

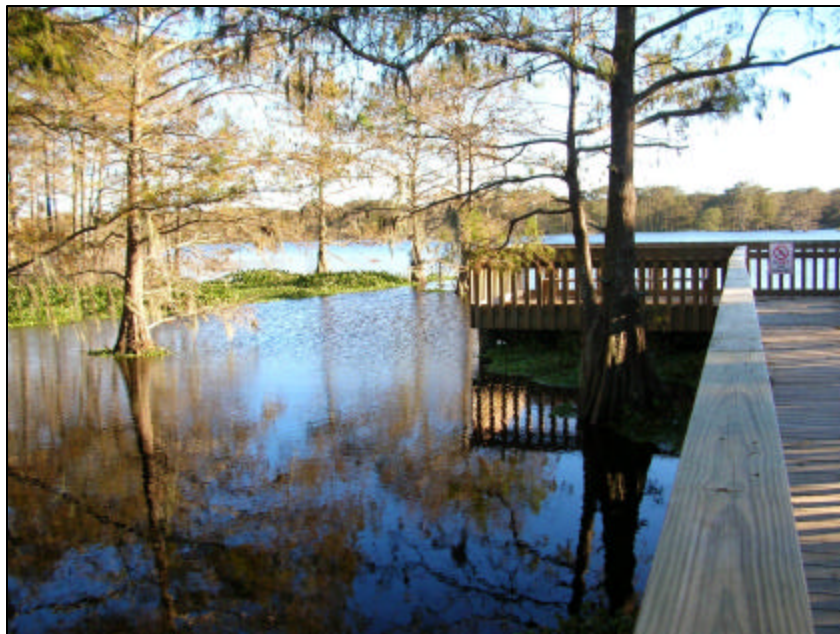
Galveston District, through its permitting authority under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, finalized its decision Feb. 11 to issue a permit to Cheniere Energy, Inc. for the Sabine Pass LNG and Pipeline Project.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission as the lead Federal agency and the USACE as a cooperating agency developed the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate and disclose the impacts of the project and fulfill requirement to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act.

The project will be located south of State Highway 82, in the Sabine Pass Channel, just east of the Sabine Pass Bridge, in Cameron Parish, Louisiana.

This facility is designed for the importation, storage, processing, and delivery of foreign-source liquefied natural gas (LNG) to help meet the demand for natural gas in the United States. Large LNG ships will off-load LNG at a new terminal that will have the capability of unloading up to 300 ships per year.

The LNG will be stored onsite in a liquefied state. The LNG will be vaporized and then pressurized to pipeline quality natural gas and sent out of the terminal facility at a rate of 2.6 billion cubic feet per day.



Rookery at J.J. Mayes Wildlife Trace.

Learning from each other District hosts environmental listening session

With the encouragement of our new commander, Galveston District hosted its first "Environmental Listening Session" March 1 and 2 at the Jadwin building.

"I believe it is important that I gain a better understanding of the interests of all the stakeholders that affect and are affected by the Galveston District," said Col. Haustein as he spoke to the assembled environmentalists. "I believe it is important that I give you the opportunity to explain your organization's interests, how we affect those interests, and more importantly, how we can do things better to achieve our mutual interests."

Over 25 participants from various organizations and agencies, such as the Bayou Preservation Alliance, Galveston Bay Information Center, Legacy Land Trust and Texas Parks and Wildlife, just

to name a few, attended the two day session. Twelve of the organizations made presentations explaining their viewpoints.

The audience, which included Corps division and office chiefs "listened" along with the commander on ideas on how to better ensure the environmental and economic prosperity of the Texas Coast.

Several participants thanked the commander and the District for being brave enough to put together such a meeting.

"Thank you so much for this excellent meeting," said Jennifer Lorenz, executive director of Legacy Land Trust. "We are changing our website and including some graphics which will show that many of our preserved lands are courtesy of Corps wetland mitigation projects. People should know this IS a good thing!"

Commander's Column



Col. Steven P. Haustein



The Sand Castle

www.swg.usace.army.mil

*A newsletter for and by
the employees of the Galveston
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I want to begin this column by highlighting the recent Listening Day that we conducted at the Jadwin Building. We invited surrounding environmental groups and stakeholders to come to the headquarters so that we could listen to their concerns, tell us how our operations impact their agenda and discover how we might adjust our operations where possible to be “greener.” I believe that the event marks a shift in the District’s outreach to the 6th ring of Team Galveston. The event was educational for all who attended and demonstrated that our effort to promote economic prosperity is not incongruent with our mission of environmental sustainability. Based on the positive feedback, I intend to make this an annual event.

“Whiskey is for drinking. Water is for fighting”
Mark Twain

I recently attended three conferences focused on water policy. Although the three conferences were structurally different, the dialogue at each meeting focused on one common issue – the nation’s water infrastructure is inadequate to meet our future needs.

This is an area that the Corps of Engineers will become more and more involved in as the nation faces its growing problem with meeting water supply and water quality demands. The role of bringing local state and federal agencies together to solve this problem is one that USACE is uniquely positioned to assume. The experience that we’re gaining in Iraq and Afghanistan will serve our nation well as we lead the way in meeting our water needs 30, 40 and 50 years into the future.

Personally, I feel a key component to the solution is a national education campaign directed at the general public to make them aware that we are facing a crisis on the horizon.

NSPS is coming soon. You have an opportunity to influence the details of that system. I highly encourage you to take advantage of this by researching the web pages now available to discuss the development of NSPS and add your input. All of us together are smarter than any one of us alone. You can be certain that the District leadership is engaged and working to make NSPS a success.

The last subject that I wanted to mention is the District Emerging Leaders Program. Please join me in congratulating Shakhar Misir and John Damm as this year’s inductees in the Emerging Leaders Program. They join a group of selfless District employees who spend a great deal of their own time devoted to personal development and working projects for me such as the new Career Progression Timeline and revising the New Employee Orientation Program that should be complete this fall. I support their development by meeting with them monthly to discuss leadership in general and on-going projects.

Additionally, I often include an Emerging Leader in key meetings that they would normally not attend and occasionally I travel with an EL to external meetings such as last month’s Congressional budget briefings in Washington DC. Rather they are folks who want to make a better life for themselves by gaining more experience and skills and therefore take on more responsibility.

Thanks for what you’re doing in support of the District mission. Know that you are making a difference to the coast of Texas and shaping the future. The work going on in the Galveston District is important and you can be proud to be playing your part.

I’m absolutely honored to be part of this team – Team Galveston.

Letter to the Editor

Congratulations and Adios, Sand Castle —

It was with a degree of disappointment and yet hope that I learned of the upcoming demise of *The Sand Castle* in favor of a regional electronic creation to be the answer to all our publication problems.

This idea has been bounced around for years, usually as response to demands for more cost/people cutting. It promises to have the advantages of any new publication while being burdened with the road blocks inherent with any executive committee. Time will be the judge.

Meanwhile, despite its adversities, *The Sand Castle* had survived to become a pretty fair country newspaper. It had a good mix of the official stuff — a necessary evil — providing policy statements for the Corps and the Galveston District, with the official projects, personnel, budget and stay-healthy stories, and finally, human interest people stuff.

This is a far cry from the time when the newsletter was launched in 1983, written by one lone overworked staffer and compiled by PA office assistant Evelyn Watson on her IBM Selectric typewriter.

The Sand Castle has gone through several evolutions over the years. Ed White came aboard to take over the writing. Public Affairs initiated the YOB (Youth on Board/Stay in School) program, which eventually developed into a fulltime, cooperative education slot for the editor, responsible for a slick 24-page employee publication. The district was blessed with many talented students from the University of Houston and Texas A&M University (including Michele Thomas).

Later, Marilyn Uhrich joined the staff, adding her unique newspaper background and limitless talent to the product.

However, this did not happen without its share of land mines — at one time before the day of the personal computer, PAO was advised to stop further use of the typewriter — termed “Unprofessional.” At another time, PAO was directed to cease all photography — brilliant thinking.

Today, we are accustomed to using the computer for setting type, and even the digital camera for color photographs. By the way, thanks for putting names with pictures!

Keep up the good work *Sand Castle*, and keep us posted on all those silly acronyms.

Ken Bonham
PAO, Retired

Walking through the Halls of Congress

by Sharon Tirpak

From 16 through 18 February 2005, I had the unique opportunity to shadow Col. Haustein as he and acting Deputy for Programs and Project Management, Bill Wise, made the trip to Capitol Hill for the annual Congressional visits to discuss the President's budget. I knew before I left that this would be a great opportunity and an experience of a lifetime to actually visit Capitol Hill in a working capacity. The three days spent walking the Halls of Congress proved to be all that and much more.

The purpose of our trip was to talk with the Representatives whose Congressional Districts are located within our District boundaries where we have on-going federally funded projects. The President's FY06 budget was issued a couple weeks earlier and the commander and Bill discussed with the Representatives the needs of the District relating to that budget proposal.

Over the three days we had meetings with 14 Representatives (12 Congressmen and both Senators). We actually met with seven Congressmen and the rest of the meetings were with their aides; two of the meetings were joint meetings with Col. Minahan and his team from Ft. Worth District. The commander and Bill at each meeting reviewed the financial requirements to keep the District's projects going.

The message was for the most part the same each time –

Galveston District fared pretty well compared to some Districts, however, we needed to make sure that the money proposed for Galveston, stayed in Galveston and, that there were some funding shortcomings in the proposed budget.

Additionally, individual projects were highlighted and discussed depending on which Representative was being briefed.

The message concerning protecting the funds that we are scheduled to receive highlighted a few high-dollar O&M projects, such as the GIWW, and the Col. Haustein wanted to make sure that a million dollars here or two million dollars there is not skimmed off and distributed elsewhere around the country. Also, as part of this message, Col. Haustein talked about the Texas Delegation (both political parties) working together to keep the money in Texas.

The second message concerned the under-funded projects (compared to our capability) and the 13 General Investigation (GI) studies and six Construction General (CG) projects that were previously funded and were proposed to receive no funding at all in the FY06 budget. One sentiment here was that this won't sit well with the local sponsors, especially those that contribute cost-share dollars. Also, there was some concern expressed because there has been a shift in the thought process of the types of Corps projects that should be



Bill Wise, Sharon Tirpak and Col. Steve Haustein pose for the camera during their trip to Washington D.C.

funded. In the past a large number of projects would be funded regardless the stage of development that those projects were in. Recently, this has shifted to primarily funding the GI and CG projects that are close to completion. What this does is help clean up the Corps workload and removes the backlog of projects.

However, if no new projects are started (especially the GI projects), what will we be constructing five or six years down the road? So what we were seeking is called a "congressional add" where the Representatives propose to add funds to those projects that were under-funded or projects given no funds at all in the proposed budget. The amount of dollars we are seeking is the difference between the budgeted amount and what we determined our execution capability is during

FY06. The final message delivered at each meeting included some concern over the DE's now limited authority to re-program funds, without having to go to HQUSACE or the Congressional Committee for approval and the chance of those funds being taken away from the District all together.

Another great opportunity I had was to attend a House Appropriations Committee, Defense Subcommittee meeting where Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Richard B. Myers, USAF, were testifying on the proposed Department of Defense FY 06 budget. Mr. Rumsfeld and General Myers were questioned on issues ranging from our activities in Iraq including: the training of the Iraqi security forces and

Congress continues on page 8...

Update on Iraq



Jacksonville District's Lt. Col. Randy Turner (center) with James Worthington (left), Galveston District, and Maj. Melody Smith (right), Rock Island District's deputy commander, escorted Brig. Gen. (P) Thomas P. Bostick, GRD Commander and Col. Richard G. Thompson, GRC District Commander, as they prepared to take off in Blackhawk helicopters (background). The commanders just finished a site visit to Al Asad Air Base.

Turner was Galveston District's deputy district engineer several years ago; however, most of us remember his participation in the afternoon basketball games with the Corps employees.

James Worthington works in project engineering. The Galveston District sends you best wishes and hopes to see you home soon.



BG Dorko addresses the audience on NSPS.

NSPS continued from page 1..

3.) NSPS preserves the principles of equal opportunity, diversity, systematic development, ethical behavior, due process, protection against non-merit based actions, and preserves the rights of whistleblowers.

4.) NSPS will not change many of the benefits we now enjoy, such as leave and attendance, travel and subsistence allowances, training, health insurance and retirement benefits, and safety and drug abuse programs.

After completing his presentation, BG Dorko, gave the 250-plus audience an opportunity to ask questions.

A question that was asked by a concern employee was, “Under NSPS, can we be assigned anywhere in the world, even to a war zone?” Right now, under the system that we have, the Corps of Engineers

has the authority to reassign employees, including reassignment to overseas locations, said Sosebee. Another question asked was, Are Galveston District employees going to lose pay? “No. Employees will be converted into NSPS at their current salary,” said Sosebee.

BG Dorko thanked everyone and encouraged employees to make comments during the formal comment period for the proposed NSPS regulations, which ended on March 16, 2005.

Comments submitted by the deadline will be posted on <http://www.cpms.osd.mil/nsps/index.html>, and will be considered as the Corps moves forward with the NSPS design.

Implementation of the first phase of the Defense Department’s new personnel system is slated for this summer.

Awards from Townhall

Congratulations to the award receiptents at the Feb. 22 townhall meeting

SWD Commander Coin

Janet Botello – for her work and effort in finalizing a high profile Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) facility (Freeport LNG) for the Texas Coast.

Doug Boren - for his work and effort in finalizing a high profile Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) facility known as the Sabine Pass LNG for the Texas Coast.

Bryan Herczeg – researched and developed the initial guidance for evaluation of Liquid Natural Gas Terminals permit applications and coordination between the Corps, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the US Coast Guard. His work was used as the basis for formulating national Regulatory guidance.

Seth Jones - for outstanding efforts in the development of GIS products and Ecological Modeling support for the Mad Island Marsh Section 206 project and Sabine-Neches Waterway Navigation Improvement Feasibility Study.

Eric Willmore - for his continued excellence as the District’s “Proactive” Real Property Accountability Officer. Galveston District was the only District in SWD this past year that had no significant issues during this last round of audits of the real property records.

SWG Commander’s Award for Civilian Service

Mike Prevost - for his heroism in connection with an incident that occurred on 14 September 2004 while the Port Arthur land Survey Crew was performing surveys of Placement Area No. 8 on Pleasure Island in Port Arthur, Texas. The crew consisted of Michael Prevost, Survey Party Chief, Elias Cadena, Assistant Party Chief, Luther Merriman and Malcom (Joey) Sedtal crewmembers. As the crew was moving thru high cane in the Marsh Buggy they were attacked by bees that were later identified to be African Killer Bees. Each member of the crew made their own exit from the area with each one being chased and repeatedly stung by the bees. After reaching safety they realized that Elias had not made it to safety with them. Mike took off to find Elias where he found him laying on the ground completely covered with bees on his head and shoulders that he couldn’t cover up with his arms. Mike seeing the situation took the only item available for getting the bees off of Elias by pouring the crews 5-gallon cooler of ice water over his head and shoulders. He got Elias into the marsh buggy and drove him to the emergency room. In the emergency room they estimated that Elias was stung over a 1,000 times over his head, face, inside his mouth, and shoulders. He was in Intensive Care for 4 days.



Col. Haustein with John Machol, who seems quite surprise and happy with his award.

SWG Commander’s Patroit Coin

Sandra Morrison - for Safety Idea

SWG Commander’s Coins

Denise Sloan - successfully organized training for Cumulative Impacts within the Regulatory Branch to improve evaluation and legal defensibility of Regulatory permits.

John Machol - eagerly accepted and managed work reassignments in the Policy Section in support of another Policy employee who deployed to Iraq.

Sam Watson – served as the POC for two GAO visits to Regulatory. His service included accurate information transmittal, resulting in a quality GAO review and reporting.

Team Award for Administrative Unit: Pam Thibodeaux, Eugene Patterson, Norm Rondeau, and Michael Hinton. The Administrative Unit, Regulatory Branch has responded in an outstanding manner to several large Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests associated with litigation. This was accomplished while balancing the required management of hundreds of permit records, including periodic updates, retrieval, research, and assisting the public.



Recreation committee receives commander's coin for holiday party.

Don Hester - for his willingness to step up and take over as the Real Estate PDT member on the 3 section 211 projects as well as Cedar Bayou. He has done excellent reviews and worked with the sponsor's PDT members to ensure the quality control of their Real Estate Plans.

Carlos Hidalgo - for his proactive efforts in improving the quality of our real estate maps and his contributions to the work of the GIS committee.

Joy Smith - for her excellent support to O&M in handling many sensitive real estate issues at Addicks and Barker. Ms. Smith handled some delicate negotiations between the City of Houston and Harris County regarding changing park boundaries. She also manages to coordinate the many road improvement projects of the City, County and the Texas Department of Transportation that directly impact the reservoirs.

John Clark and Luis Saenz - for the work they did on the Security Gate contract at the end of last FY.

Gary Owens and Brent Granier - Gary and Brent work as Construction Representatives on the Sims Bayou Project. Both play a critical roll in the continued success of the ongoing construction. They are the Sims Bayou construction experts who work with the contractors, District personnel and Local Sponsor to resolve problems, keep the project moving forward and ensure the plans and specifications are followed.

Andrea Catanzaro, Nicole Dailey, Rob Hauch, Bob Heinly, Shane Hunt, Christy Sorrels - for their work as panel members in the award of three new planning and environmental contracts.

Commander's On-the-Spot Cash Awards

Gary Johnson, Lockmaster, Brazos River Floodgates – Gary coordinated tow traffic through the BRFG without accident while operating under restrictions even though his assistant was on sick leave (leg surgery) and he was short 1 lock operator and he had 2 new lock operators who had been on duty for less than 2 months.

Simon DeSoto, Lockmaster, Colorado River Locks – Simon coordinated tow traffic movement without accident or injury through the CRL and across the Colorado River with industry, GICA representatives, USCG (Corpus Christi and Galveston), TXDOT, and others during the high water event.

William Krampe, Mechanic, Addicks Project Office – Bill was required to work at night, weekends, and during heavy rain to open and close the project's floodgates when requested by the water control manager. He was also responsible for operating the gates in a manner that helped to move debris through the gates and out into the channel.

Charles Scheffler - Civil Engineer, Project Ops Br - Charles worked closely with Harris County Flood Control District and onsite personnel to manage project gate settings so that impounded water could be released in the most efficient manner that would not cause damage or flooding issues downstream.



Col. Hausteine awards David Petit.



Carlos Hidalgo receives coin for his proactive efforts in improving real estate maps.

PDT Awards – Commander's Castle Coin

Mr. Maurer's Retirement team -

Pat Agee, Gloria Brunt, Art Janecka, Debbie Jones, Dalton Krueger, Roseanne Theobald, Michele Thomas, Betty Voelkel, and Tina Ybarra

Annual Holiday Party -

Karl Brown, Loretta Carnes, Nikki Minnichbach, Grace Procter, Alicia Rea, Valerie Riedel, Gail Stewart, Michele Thomas, Rob Thomas, and Chris Wrbas

The Corps Crusiers



The Corps Cruisers...you might have seen them riding in during morning rush or hear them peeling out of the parking lot...pictured left to right is Johnny Rozsypal, Mike Sells, Lynwood Weiss, Tom Hunt, Art Martin, and Bill Jakeway.

Bob Bass No rocking chair for this retiree

By Ken Bonham, PAO retired

Traveling over 100,000 miles by air to three other continents since his retirement in 1998, this Galveston District retiree is not about to settle for the old rocking chair. Add another 50,000 miles by highway with his RV, and you have the picture. It all dates back to the arrival of the first of five foreign exchange students who came to the U.S. and became part of the Bob Bass family.

This natural curiosity and interest in other people has taken Bob and his wife, Marsha, to Europe, Japan, Hawaii, Brazil, and Thailand. All these trips, directly or indirectly related to the exchange students. After spending a year with the Basses, the students return to their homes and have invited their hosts to visit.

Bass was one of the original members of the Galveston District Environmental section while the district was headquartered in the Santa Fe Building, now Shearn Moody Plaza. With a masters degree in marine biology and first-hand knowledge of virtually all Corps projects along the Texas coast, Bass remains a valued member of the District for special assignments.

But what is it that drives a man like this? Continuing their endeavors as a host family for Rotary Club foreign exchange students, Bob

and Marsha have a unique window on the world. To date they have shared their home with three teenagers from Japan, one from Hungary, and now one from Thailand, Rapee Piriyaongsak, who prefers to go by his nickname “POP.” He is currently a senior at Santa Fe High School.

Serious about continuing education, Bass studied Japanese at the College of the Mainland. Two years later in 1999, this served him well when he made presentations to two of the exchange student’s sponsoring Rotary Clubs in Osaka and Niigata, Japan — in Japanese. The speech, however, was not extemporaneous, he emphasized. Expecting he might be asked to say a few words at the meetings, he wrote and practiced the short speech in advance of the trip.

“Of course the audience was expecting English and was very surprised, maybe shocked, to hear an American speaking in even simple Japanese,” he said. Marsha, formerly a teacher at WEIS Middle School in Galveston, adds that having exchange students in their home in Galveston, and now Santa Fe, has been a real education for both of them. Bob and Marsha have two children, Hillary, of Galveston, and Garrett, attending the University of Texas, Austin.



Bob Bass with wife, Marsha, and foreign exchange student from Thailand, Rapee Piriyaongsak, who prefers to be called by his nickname “POP”

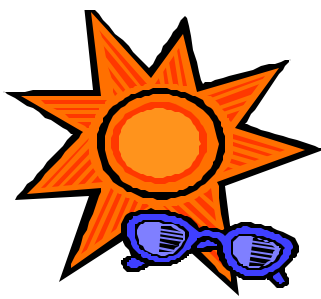
Not satisfied to sit around while there are sights to see, Bob and Marsha took their fifth wheel camper and spent three months checking out the sights between Santa Fe, Texas and Fairbanks, Alaska (15,000 miles). This was followed by trips to Newfoundland (12,000 miles) in 2003, plus “local” trips to west Texas and the canyon lands of the Southwestern U.S. Bass, a member of the Galveston District’s “Gallery of Distinguished Civilian Employees,” also has the distinction of having served aboard the U.S. Navy submarine Cavalla, SS244, on display at Galveston’s Seawolf Park, across the channel from the Jadwin Building.

During his six years in the navy, he also was assigned to

the nuclear submarine Henry Clay, SSBN 625. He states that he has not made any recent nostalgic visits back to the Cavalla, just for old time’s sake. “ I can’t believe I really lived in such close quarters,” the affable biologist said. And he adds, “No, I don’t think I’d like to do it again!”

And what does a marine biologist do when he is not traveling, hunting or fishing, or putting together slide shows? A visitor to the Bass home in Santa Fe must be impressed with Bob’s hidden talents as a woodworker and cabinet maker and his latest creation, an oak entertainment center.

What is next for the globe trotting Bass family? You name it and they will be there.



Summer safety tips for you and your loved ones

March in Texas means spring. This usually means vacations, boating activities, swimming, fishing, and all those other activities we enjoy during the long daylight hours. Summer is a great time to relax - except when it comes to water safety. With this in mind, let's review some of the most common sources of hazards during summer months:

WATER SAFETY: Bonnie Gillespie of the American Red Cross, reminds families to follow these Water Safety Tips for staying healthy in or around the water:

1.) Learn to swim and swim well. One of the best things anyone can do to stay safe in and around the water is learn to swim. No one, including adults, should ever swim alone.

Adults should practice "reach supervision" which means to be within arm's length of a child in case an emergency occurs.

2.) Know your child's skills and limits. Parents should take into account that with no practice, it is a safe bet that the skills their child exhibited in the water at the end of last season are not the same.

Also you can't assume they're the same in open water environments like the beach or lake as they are in the pool. Give your child the chance to get acclimated to the water again, and to a new environment.

3.) Outfit everyone with the proper gear. Kids - and even adults - who are not strong swimmers, or who appear to rely on inflatable toys for safety, should use U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation devices (PFDs) whenever they are in or around the water.

4.) Always keep basic lifesaving equipment by the residential pool and know how to use it. A first aid kit, cordless phone, phone list with emergency contact information, a reaching pole and a ring buoy with a nylon line attached are recommended.

First aid kits should contain plastic face shields, which can help prevent disease transmission.

Cordless phones allow you to make that 911 call and to receive calls without leaving the area. The plastic makes the ring buoy so light even a child can save a life if the need arises.

In addition, the Red Cross recommends that pools be surrounded on all sides by a fence that is at least 4 feet high. It should not provide any footholds, which would allow a child to climb over, or spacing to climb through. The fence should have a self-closing, self-locking gate that is locked when the pool is not in use.

5.) Pack a "safety" bag for a day at the beach or lake. The properly packed safety bag will help ensure a fun day in which everyone comes home safe and sound.

Water-proof sunscreen with an SPF 15 or higher, water shoes to keep feet safe from the heat and sharp objects on land and plenty of water are musts. All containers should be plastic to prevent injuries from breaking glass.

Also, a hat and sunglasses keep eyes safe from dangerous UV rays.

Here are some additional tips from the Corps of Engineer's 101 Day of Summer Campaign:

1.) Keep hot foods hot and cold foods cold. We have all heard this; however, every year thousands of people become ill because of mishandled food.

2.) Learn Red Cross first aid and CPR. While the above tips can help prevent emergencies, it is important to know what to do if a situation arises.

All potential responders, including grandparents, older siblings and babysitters should have these lifesaving skills.

3.) When boating, always wear a life jacket, even if you are a strong swimmer. Each person should have the appropriate personal flotation device for his or her weight and size, which is found clearly marked inside the label near the Coast Guard stamp.

Statistics compiled by the U.S. Coast Guard show that over 80 percent of all drowning victims were not wearing proper flotation devices. This also applies to fishermen and hunters who use boats to gain access to sporting locations.

These groups are especially at risk because they do not see themselves as boaters and often avoid wearing life preservers.

HEAT STRESS: The human body, being warm blooded, needs to maintain a fairly constant internal temperature. To do this, the body gets rid of its excess heat through the skin and

evaporation of sweat. To assist in the process of lowering internal body temperature, the heart pumps faster to increase blood flow to the upper layers of the skin to reduce heat.

If heat loss from this increased circulation is not adequate, the sweat glands in the skin secrete large quantities of perspiration so that evaporation of sweat cools the skin.

If all these measures are not sufficient, the body's efforts to maintain an acceptable body temperature may be impaired. Alertness and mental capacity may also be affected. Hydration is the most important element in prevention of heat injuries.

Maintenance of body fluid levels is essential to maintain both blood volume for blood flow and sweating. Both are reduced by dehydration. The dehydrated individual has less ability to maintain body temperature.

Therefore, we must drink sufficient quantities of liquids to ensure the body can continue to function properly.

Avoid alcohol and caffeine, however, as these increase dehydration.

The US Army Center for Health and Preventive Medicine, the National Institute of Occupational Safety & Health, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, do not recommend sports drinks to make up for the loss of salt.

Also, note that certain dietary supplements (especially Ephedra) and some medications (cold and allergy remedies) can increase the risk of heat injury.

We should also schedule rest breaks to prevent heat illnesses. If less severe forms of heat illness occur, they can be treated before they can progress to heat stroke.

Other safety measures to prevent heat stress include scheduling heavy work for the early morning or early evening as much as possible. Avoid direct sunlight, which increases the apparent temperature.

Wear loose, lightweight, and light-colored clothing that allows perspiration to evaporate. Remember that wide brimmed hat, sunglasses, and sun screen (protection factor of at least 15 or higher).

Avoid alcohol and caffeine, as these will increase dehydration.

Learn the symptoms of heat exhaustion and heat stroke and how to treat them.

If you suspect someone is suffering from heat stroke, begin treatment immediately. Get the person indoors or in a shaded area lying down with their feet slightly elevated. Apply cool water to the head and neck, or ice packs if available around the neck, armpits and groin area. If symptoms persist, seek medical treatment.

DRIVING SAFETY: Here are some driving tips from General Motors Corporation:

1.) Don't drink and drive, and do not allow guests to drink and drive. Alcohol is the number one contributor to highway traffic deaths.

2.) Buckle up correctly and insist that all passengers do likewise. Properly restrain children in proper safety seats in the back seat. Most crashes occur within 25 miles of home, and the greatest numbers of deaths occur in crashes at speed of less than 40 mph.

3.) Do not drive while drowsy. On long trips, build in ample time for breaks and, if possible, share driving responsibilities.

4.) Make sure your car is in good shape for summer. Pay close attention to engine coolant, brakes, tire condition and tire pressure, and belts and hoses. Don't overload your vehicle.

5.) Be prepared. Keep emergency supplies in your car such as flares and hazard signs in case of a breakdown or flat. Make sure there is a jack in the car and that the spare is properly inflated.

Pull completely off the road and avoid exiting the side of the vehicle facing traffic.

6.) Do not transport passengers in the back of a pick-up truck. This is dangerous and, in many states, illegal.

7.) Never leave children unattended in a vehicle, even for a few moments. On a warm, sunny day, a vehicle can heat up to lethal levels in minutes.

8.) Do not allow distractions such as eating, drinking and cellular phone conversations to interfere with the primary task of driving.

By keeping this information in mind, we can enjoy all those carefree days of summer in a much safer manner. Happy summer holidays!

Black History Month



BEP manager, Pat Agee and fellow committee members dress in African attire in celebration of Black History Month.

Meet the new EL's: John Damm and Shakhar Misir



John Damm has been an employee of the Corps since October 2003 and works in the Engineering and Construction Division in the Geotechnical and Structures Section. Projects include design of levees, slope stability assessment, jetty stabilization, and marsh cell design. Prior to joining the Corps, he spent 15 years as a geotechnical engineer in the Baltimore Maryland area in the private sector (A-E firms) working on bridges, dam rehabilitation, roadway, and building designs.

He has a BS in Marine Science from Texas A&M at Galveston and a MS in Civil Engineering (Geotechnical) from the University of Maryland. He has PE licenses in Maryland, Virginia, and District of Columbia. He also has a U.S Coast Guard 2nd Mates unlimited deck license and sailed on his license for 4 years prior to returning to school to complete his MS in 1991.

He applied to the EL program in hopes of gaining greater insight into the current make up and future plans for the Corps. "I feel that through the EL program I will have a greater exposure to other Districts and Corps employees and this exposure will give be a better understanding of the composition of the Corps," said Damm.



Shakhar Misir has been with the Galveston District for 8 years as Construction Project Engineer. His primary duty is to support, at the District level, the Area and Field Offices assigned to him in executing their construction contracts.

His education background includes a BS in Civil Engineering and a Masters in Business Administration, both from University of Houston.

When asked why he applied to emerging leader program, "I had no desire to apply until it was suggested that the program may benefit me by improving my ability to serve our organization in a manner compatible with the continuous improving philosophy," said Misir.

Castle Comments

Congratulations

Please join me in congratulating *Valerie (Riedel) Miller* on her selection for the developmental assignment in Programs Management Branch. She goes to PM with 10 years of experience in Resource Management with a Masters Degree in Accounting, as well as familiarity with the P2 system as a member of the P2 Project Delivery Team (PDT).

Thanks

"A brief note of thanks to the many persons who sent well wishes following the loss of my wife, Carolyn, in December. This would have been the year to celebrate 45 years. Thanks for your kindness during this difficult period."
Ken Bonham, PAO Retired

Happy Anniversary

Congratulations to *Karl Brown, operations* and his wife, Autumn, who celebrated 10 years of marriage on Feb. 17th.

Get Well Soon

Louis Petit, operations, is now home resting comfortably after suffering from an aneurism in the descending aorta (chest and abdomen) on March 24. At the time, Louis was in the Intensive Care Unit at Hermann where his condition was evaluated for treatment options. Please continue to hold Louis in your thoughts and prayers.

Sal Arcidiacono, real estate, is in the hospital for fractured vertebrae, causing the 7th vertebrae to lean on the spine. He had surgery on March 18.

Condolences

Jacob Bourgeois, 57, formally of the Fort Point & Northern Area Office, passed away March 3 at John Sealy Hospital. Please keep Jake's family in your thoughts & prayers.

The Waterways Journal lost a family member March 5, as *Bill Evans* passed away of lung cancer at his Mandeville, La., home. Evans retired from the WJ staff earlier this year following more than 25 years of service. He was 62.

As the WJ's Gulf Coast manager, Evans reported on industry events throughout the South and along the Gulf Coast, wrote feature articles, attended industry meetings and generally represented the magazine across the industry.

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when they would be ready to handle that country's security on their own, so that we could pull out of Iraq; the weapons of mass destruction issue; and the \$80 billion dollars in supplemental funds for the global war on terrorism not identified in the FY06 budget.

In addition they discussed the number of Navy ships and Air Force planes that are identified in the budget and the difference in what the Navy and Air Force say the need and what was actually budgeted for.

This was an especially interesting meeting for me, because I am currently taking the non-resident Army Management Staff College/ Sustaining Base Leadership Management course and my seminar has discussed many of the topics and issues that were discussed at this Committee meeting. So this too was an afternoon well spent.

So what did I walk away with from my experience walking the Halls of Congress?

I now have a much better understanding on how important it is for us to ensure that Congressional members have a good understanding of our projects and our funding needs for those projects.

I learned a little more about our budgeting process and what a "congressional add" is, how it is asked for and the process it must go through for approval.

I have a better understanding of how our Congressmen and women, and Senators work for us and a better idea of how our government works at that level. Overall I thought it was a great learning experience.

One that will not only benefit me, but the Galveston District as a whole because I now have a much better understanding of how our District works and the processes that we must go through to make it work that much better.

Lastly, I want to express my appreciation to Col. Haustein for taking an Emerging Leader on this trip. To me this was the "icing on the cake" as far as shadowing opportunities go, and one that I will not soon forget. As he said several times during the trip that I "just seemed to be falling down with enthusiasm"! And he was right! Also I want to thank Diana Laird and Rick Medina for allowing me to be away from my "real job."